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charmingly described. Every facility was given to the distinguished party at the Amazon and island towns they visited to see everything worth seeing, and they were after information as well as pleasure. The book has been handsomely produced, and contains numerous fine photographs. The preface is written by Mr. William M. Ivins, the well-known lawyer, who, through residence, travel, and study, knows many things Brazilian. He expresses regret that the English books of value on Brazil were not all written by men who knew thoroughly the tongue, history, literature, or people of that country ; so that we are not yet in real touch with their lives, national aspirations, customs, or civilization.

**Alaska and the Klondike.** By J. S. McLain. xiv and 330 pp., numerous Illustrations, Map, and Index. McClure, Phillips & Co., New York. (Price, \$2.00.)

The author is a newspaper editor who was permitted to accompany the senatorial Sub-Committee that visited Alaska in the summer of 1903 for the purpose of collecting information that would be useful to Congress in its legislation for that district. Mr. McLain, therefore, enjoyed extremely favourable opportunities for studying the resources and prospects of the country during the ten weeks' trip through the interior, along the whole course of the Yukon, and to many places among the islands and on the coast that are not easily reached by the regular means of travel.

His book has two qualities that make it conspicuous among writings on Alaska. It has the solidity essential to the presentation of a large amount of reliable, late, and well-digested information; and it contains sufficient narrative, anecdote and description to make it interesting to a large circle of readers. It first tells the story of the trip along the coast and through the heart of Alaska. It then discusses the very important interests and questions relating to the country, such as the seal islands and the fisheries, transportation as the key to the locked-up wealth of Alaska, the political conditions, agricultural possibilities, the reindeer industry, the Indians, and the great goldfields of the Seward Peninsula and the Fairbanks district.

The predominant note is that Alaska is a wonderfully rich country. The author is even impressed with the probability that in the interior, where food supplies from the States must always be expensive, it will be practicable and profitable to produce meat, dairy, poultry, and garden products in sufficient quantity and at such prices as to solve the problem of development of large areas of gold-bearing gravel. This is very important, for the prospects are that before many years there will be hundreds of toilers in the Territory where there are tens to-day. The Sub-Committee was told in Nome that in this district about 20,000 gold claims had been staked out and recorded, and only about 500 of them were being worked to any extent. This represents a state of things general throughout Alaska, though it is not quite so accentuated in other sections as in the Seward Peninsula.

It is impossible to give an idea of the stores of information the book contains, but a few facts may be mentioned about the new Fairbanks district. The miners, not satisfied with the price of \$16 an ounce for their gold, had it assayed, and found it to be worth \$17.50, which shows that it is a finer quality than that of the Klondike and nearly as fine as the gold of Nome. It is more inaccessible, however, than at either of those places. In the Klondike and Nome regions the gold is often found exposed or very slightly covered along the beds of the creeks, but in the Fairbanks district there seems to be no gold in the creek bottoms; it lies up on the ledges and on the hillsides in a stratum of gravel two or three feet thick, and is located only after sinking shafts 10 to 20 feet from the surface.

We have scarcely appreciated the isolation of Nome in winter:

The mining has stopped almost entirely, the ships come no more, half the people have gone "outside"; the rest eat and sleep and amuse themselves and wait for summer to come again.

This is the situation from November to June. The illustration of the book with half tones leaves nothing to be desired. The index is fairly adequate, but the map is a rough black-and-white sketch, without even a scale of miles. The book may be commended without reserve to all who are seeking information about Alaska.

**Auf Alexanders des Grossen Pfaden. Eine Reise Durch Kleinasien. Von A. Janke.** viii and 186 pp. 20 Illustrations from photographs, and 6 Plans from the surveys of W. v. Marées. Weidmannsche Buchhandlung, Berlin, 1904. (Price, M. 7.)

German army officers have been especially prominent in recent years in the exploration of Greece and Asia Minor. In 1902 Captain Janke, with three lieutenants, visited the ancient battlefields of Issus and the Granicus River, now known as Bigha Tschai. The attempt was made to work out from the ancient accounts of Alexander's battles with the Persians, and from studies of the topography, the sites of the battlefields, the dispositions of the contending forces, and the routes they followed through the country. Captain Janke made a diligent study of all the literature that might help his work. He gives important reasons for his belief that he has fixed the position of the battlefields of Issus and the Granicus; and, in addition to his researches in the path of Alexander, he explored, as far as possible, the valley of the Kor-kun-Su' River, and followed a new route through the steppe between Eregli and Konia to the north of the route that appears on the Kiepert map.

**Aus Papuas Kulturmorgen. Südsee-Erinnerungen. Von Stefan von Kotze.** 227 pp. F. Fontane & Co., Berlin, 1905. (Price, M. 3.)

Mr. von Kotze has drawn upon his own experiences for this lively account of the beginnings of the German occupancy of New Guinea. He writes with humour, and also with biting sarcasm, of his recollections of those troublous days when the New Guinea Company was getting a foothold on the coast of Kaiser Wilhelm Land. The unlooked-for mishaps, the unexpected situations, the stupidity and blundering that marked much of everyday history, the demeanour of the natives, and the poor quality of a great deal of the scientific work done, are sketched with a lively pen. Dr. Reinecke, reviewing the book for the *Literatur Bericht* of *Petermanns Mitteilungen* (No. 280, 1906), says that many of the critical observations of the author are, unfortunately, only too true.

**Bibliotheca Geographica. Herausgegeben von der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin. Bearbeitet von Otto Baschin.** Band XI. Jahrgang 1902. W. H. Kuhl, Berlin, 1905.

The present issue of this invaluable annual has advanced another stage towards all attainable completeness. It contains over 10,000 titles in 20 languages, filling 531 pages. All geographical workers appreciate the great helpfulness of this laborious and very careful compilation, and it is gratifying to read in Mr. Baschin's preface that he expects further to reduce the long gap between the bibliographical year represented in each volume and the year of publication. The volume for 1903 is now so far advanced that it is expected to appear in a short time.